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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Scientific - Nuclear Physics, rockets
Military - Guided missilesDATE OF
INFORMATION 1954HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. / JUNE 1954

WHERE
PUBLISHED Luxembourg

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 12 Feb 1954

LANGUAGE German

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Luxemburger WortINFORMATION ON ATOMIC RESEARCH PROJECTS IN THE USSR

[Comment: The Luxembourg Catholic daily newspaper, Luxemburger Wort, of 12 February 1954, carried an unsigned article on research centers in various parts of the USSR which are engaged in projects related to atomic research. The article, which gave no indication of the original source, contains information on some of the facilities and equipment, the scientific staff, and the objectives of the research projects.]

One of the principal Soviet observatories for the study of radio-activity and cosmic radiation in high altitudes is located in the immediate vicinity of the port of Sochi on the Black Sea. Headed by atomic scientist Treletzky [Ya. P. Terletskiy?], this research station has nearly 50 aircraft, which are used as flying laboratories. Equipped with powerful helicopter engines, the craft are able to remain practically stationary at elevations of 23,000 meters during experiments. The scientific staff on such flights consists of Soviet atomic physicists. The pilots are preferably North Tibetans, who are used to living in high altitudes. German scientists, former associates of Prof Werner Braun in the German guided-missile project during World War II, are cooperating with Soviet scientists.

The Sochi project seeks to define the requirements for preparing an artificial earth satellite. The rockets used at Sochi weigh 22 tons and have a range of 2,500 kilometers. In several test flights above the Black Sea, mice were used as experimental passengers.

The Sochi research station and its branch station at Arzhim, Armenian SSR, are subordinated to a research staff in Krasnaya Polyana, some 60 kilometers from Sochi. Krasnaya Polyana is the nerve center of the 182 meteorological stations in the southern USSR, which are all equipped with radar.

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In research centers at Chuguchak, Sinkiang, and on the Lyakhov Islands in the Laptev Sea, aeronautical and atomic scientists cooperate in joint projects. Prof. Nikolay Semenov heads a staff of Soviet engineers who direct the work of technicians and German scientists deported from the Peenemuende project at both research centers. The Chuguchak and Lyakhov projects, both in operation since spring 1952, provide atomic propellant for the various types of atomic rockets developed at Krasnaya Polyana. Similar tests have been held since the winter of 1952 on certain high plateaus of Sinkiang. Near the source of the Tarim, facilities for atomic research were built. Reports from Urumchi, the capital of Sinkiang, state that tests have been made there with smaller atomic charges and that it is planned to produce tactical atomic weapons.

Atomic weapons are already being produced in atomic laboratories in Tashmagol and Temir Tau in the Kuznets basin, as well as in the Balkhash area. These laboratories also produce an artificial radioactive element to replace uranium 235 and 239, which are scarce in the USSR.

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